

Governors' Newsletter

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In this issue

Consortium School to school support

Reminder Parent Survey

School Council Pupil Voice

Governor Visits Class Three

People Anne Richardson

Parent Survey

Our annual parent survey will take place in the summer term. The survey is open to all parents and carers and can be completed online or via paper copy.

Please look out for further information next term.

School to school support

Our school is part of the Fosse Way Consortium, which includes twelve rural schools across South Warwickshire.

We have paired up with Kineton Primary in a school-to-school support arrangement to identify areas for improvement. At their last inspection, Kineton were rated as 'Outstanding' in Leadership and Management so they provide a good benchmark for us.

The Consortium also gives us access to external advisors, including an Ofsted inspector who visited the school last term to review our performance data.

This work has given us a few areas for improvement but perhaps more importantly, it provides further endorsement that our approach to governance is already on the way to Outstanding.



Pupil Voice

It is important that the school actively consults our pupils and involves them in decision-making. One of the ways that we achieve this is *The School Council*. The Council has eight members, made up of two representatives from year 6, plus one representative from each of the other year groups. The Council provides a forum for our children to raise and discuss issues, while also helping them to develop valuable life skills. Keith Groen visited school to see how it works:

School visits, or 'blinks' are a great opportunity for Governors not only to consider individual focus areas, but also to give context to the work the staff do on a daily basis, and the effort and passion they put into the school which, even during my very short visit, I witnessed in abundance.

The council members are selected by an electoral system and are voted into office by their peers to serve for one school term; no member can serve more than one consecutive term to give more children a chance to participate.

The Council meets every two weeks, for about 15 minutes. They discuss topics brought forward from their own experiences of the school, and items raised via a suggestion box.

Recent improvements include the addition of a second year 6 council member, a teacher nominated to lead & organise the council (Mr Degg) and a shift from an agenda set by the wider school, to one set by the council members. The children were clear on the changes that had been made and their positive impact; these improvements are clearly working well.

There was an inclusive, positive and friendly atmosphere and good manners were evident throughout my visit, consistent with the school ethos. The children were all enthusiastic about their role on the Council and were proud to represent their class. They understood how the council functioned and were keen to highlight the topics they have previously discussed such as e-safety, new ideas for school clubs (which were now up and running), and new play equipment. The topics discussed were of real value to the school and the ideas and input from members was impressive.

Following on from my visit, I suggested a few enhancements that could make the Council even better: such as the nomination of a 'Chair', who could be given some basic guidance on leading a meeting; and a 'Secretary' who could take meeting notes and circulate the agenda. I also suggested that Council representatives meet with their year groups before the meetings to make sure they are bringing forward their views.

Overall, the school council was clearly enjoyed and appreciated by pupils and the recent steps taken to improve it have been positive. It adds real value to the school, it is a great opportunity for the older children to model a structured approach to continual improvement within the school and it demonstrates democracy as a core British value.

Class Three Visit

As part of our Learning Improvement Plan focus on Reading and Writing, Neil Thomas joined Class Three in December as they learned about the history of Saint Nicholas:

“Mr Degg explained how he wanted the class to investigate aspects of Saint Nicholas’s life and background, using written materials and iPads, and reminding pupils to use ‘Bing’ online to make sure they accessed safe websites.

I was really pleased to see how the pupils work and support each other, many of them demonstrated very good listening skills and checked their understanding with Mr Degg.

Pens were held correctly by both girls and boys.

I discussed learning with three of the children and was shocked when one of the boys explained how they all learn at different pace and level of understanding, he was clearly well informed!

I also listened as pupils recited the history of Saint Nicholas. They read well, particularly two boys in Year Four.

It was also great to listen to their imagination, “St Nicholas is a Ghost” and witness discussion of what Saint Nicholas Day should be called: “St Nick’s day” “St Knickers Day” or even “St Boxers Day”.

Anne Richardson

We are delighted to welcome Anne Richardson to the team as the new Church Foundation Governor. Anne has a long association with the school via the County Music Service and we are already benefiting from her experience. Anne has joined our Resources Committee.

Your Governing Body:

Dave Holland	Chair
Neil Thomas	Vice Chair, Chair of Performance and Standards
Nick Wilson	Chair of Resources
Margaret Lunnon	Head Teacher
Sean Dent	Early Birds and After School Provision
Keith Groen	Safeguarding, Nursery Provision
Lucy Jackson	Assistant Head Teacher
Sue Lampitt	Church Foundation and SEN
Serban Marfa	Finance
Anne Richardson	Church Foundation and Personnel